

Biome Research

Your group has been assigned one of the biomes discussed in class. You will now become the teacher. You must use the Internet to research this biome, focusing on the required elements listed below. Once the research is complete, put the information together in an interesting and meaningful way for your classmates. Remember: you want this to be exciting. Don't just lecture. Get the class involved. Try to use at least one visual aid (overhead, computer, poster, etc.).

For your assigned biome, you must have:

1. A general description of the biome, including location, general climate, seasons, and plant and animal adaptations.
2. A world map with the global distribution of the biome clearly marked.
3. A representative climograph showing monthly precipitation and temperatures.
4. A vegetation profile (a typical side view of the biome) that shows the vertical distribution of plants, emphasizing any canopy or understory.
5. A food web containing animals and plants at the following trophic levels: producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, top predators, and decomposers.
6. Pictures of the biome as well as common animals and plants found there.
7. Three questions that can be used on a test at the end of the presentations.

The following Web sites will provide you with background information:

The World's Biomes

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/index.html>

World Biomes

<http://www.worldbiomes.com/>

Land Biomes

<http://biology.about.com/od/landbiomes/a/aa061297a.htm>

Characteristics of Earth's Terrestrial Biomes

<http://www.physicalgeography.net/fundamentals/9k.html>

Earth Floor: Biomes

<http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/mseese/earthsysflr/biomes.html>

World Builders: Introduction to Biomes

<http://curriculum.calstatela.edu/courses/builders/lessons/less/biomes/introbiomes.html>

The Virtual Zoo: Habitats

<http://library.thinkquest.org/11922/habitats/habitats.htm>

Introduction to Biomes

<http://www.runet.edu/~swoodwar/CLASSES/GEOG235/biomes/intro.html>



Oral Presentation Rubric

The following rubric will be used to evaluate your presentation. Use it as a guideline as you prepare.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Organization	Information is presented in a clear, logical, and interesting manner that the audience can easily follow.	Information is presented in a clear sequence that the audience can follow.	Presentations jumps between topics and audience has difficulty following.	There is no sequence and the audience cannot follow.
Knowledge	Explanations show full knowledge, all required elements are included, and questions are answered appropriately.	Explanations are complete, all required elements are included, and questions are answered but lack detail.	Explanations are not detailed, some elements are missing, and answers to questions are incomplete.	No clear understanding of information, many missing elements, and questions are not answered.
Supporting Graphics and Materials	Graphics are highly visible and reinforce presentation.	Graphics are visible and relate to the presentation.	Graphics are difficult to see or are not very relevant to the presentation.	There are no graphics or supporting materials.
Eye Contact	Students maintain eye contact with the audience, rarely referring to notes.	Students maintain eye contact for most of the time but refer often to notes.	Students read most of the report and rarely look at audience.	Students never look at audience.
Mechanics	Rate and volume of voice is clear, appropriate language is used, and speaker is poised.	Voice is clear and most of the audience can hear, appropriate language is used, and speaker is somewhat poised.	Difficult to hear or understand speaker some words are not appropriate, speaker moves or rocks quite a bit.	Speaker mumbles, has poor word choice, and is constantly moving or rocking.

